

Report of G. T. Purdy

Re: Hall-Mills case

105.1820 GTP/Erling 117  
Friday, Sept. 17, 1926.

Interviewed the following people: Cornelius Van Clief of East Millstone, who can be located at Paulus Dairy, 189 New Street, New Brunswick; a negro barber at 158 French Street, New Brunswick; Mr. Julius Erling of 222 French Street, New Brunswick.

Interview with Mr. Van Clief: Operative received some information from Mr. Edwin Carpenter about Van Clief having some information in regard to Bob Erling. Operative went to 189 New Street and found Mr. Van Clief at this address. He stated that Bob Erling worked for him about six months of last year and previous to that worked for him on and off. A few nights ago he was to a store at French Street near the brook and when he came out of the store there were several men talking on the sidewalk discussing the Hall-Mills case. One of these men happened to be Straub (who was questioned by the state investigators at the reopening of this case at Somerville and held there for five days and then released).

In the conversation, Straub said that Bob Erling wanted him to say that he was out there in De Russey's lane the night of September 14, 1922, and if he did say this he would get some money out of it, either on the defense side or the prosecution's side. Straub said that he told Bob Erling: "No, that he was not there and would not say that he was."

This Bob Erling is known to Mr. Van Clief as "Snappy." In referring to Erling they use the name of "Snappy" frequently.

Mr. Van Clief then said to Straub: "Do you think that Erling was out there that night?", and with that Straub replied: "Well, he